

**“Baseball”** by Lionel G. García  
**Literary Analysis: Narrative Essay**

A **narrative essay** tells the story of real events experienced by real people in real places. Narrative essays share these features with fictional stories:

- People’s traits and personalities are developed through their words, actions, and thoughts.
- The setting of the action may be an important element.

In “Baseball,” Lionel G. García tells a true story about the kind of baseball he and his friends played in their neighborhood while growing up. He includes certain details about people and events during these games. The details help the reader understand the author’s personality and the feelings he had about these childhood experiences.

In the essay, the author describes a particular incident in which the players chase Juan across town until they all fall into a laughing heap. These details make it clear that even though the youngsters did not belong to a formal baseball team or follow the traditional rules, they enjoyed the company of friends and playing a fast, unique version of baseball.

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions. Your answers will help you identify the details that the author provides to develop his personality.

1. Where do the baseball games take place?

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2. What does the author say to describe Father Zavala’s reactions to watching the games?

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3. Why do you think the author played when he rarely, if ever, got to bat?

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4. Why was it more interesting and fun if the fielder missed hitting the batter?

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5. Based on the details the author tells about their game, how do you think the author reacted to Uncle Adolfo’s negative comment?

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